

he was first elected as Councillor of Salem's Ward Four that the O'Leary name will not appear on the ballot.

Lennie honorably served twelve consecutive, two-year terms, and his twenty-four years on the Salem City Council rank him among the longest serving City Councillors in Salem's long and storied history. He earned the respect of his colleagues on the Council over the years as reflected by their electing him Council President on four occasions during his tenure.

Lennie's institutional knowledge made him a valuable resource on the Council as he served as Chair on all of the Council's committees, including the Finance Committee and Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs. He also served as the longtime Council Liaison to the City's Board of Health. Councillor O'Leary served his country as a member of the National Guard from 1961–1967, and he took great pride in advocating in support of his fellow veterans while on the Council.

In his over two decade long Council career, Lennie was legendary in his devotion to his Ward Four constituents, and he provided them with reliable and responsive service. He kept them informed with regular neighborhood meetings and tended to their every need whether by filing measures to prohibit overnight parking of heavy vehicles in residential neighborhoods or meeting with engineers and DPW crews to make sure road work proceeded in a timely and reasonable manner. Lennie advocated tirelessly for his Ward Four neighbors appearing at hundreds of Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and Conservation Committee hearings to make sure their concerns had a voice and were heard. He was rewarded by support across his Ward that was broad and deep.

Lennie would be the first to admit that he did not do it all alone. He would tell you that he had good friends and that he had good fortune in working with four mayors and countless dedicated colleagues on the Council. However, most important to Lennie was the full and untiring support he received from his wife Mary, who often accompanied him to those late night Council and Board meetings. Mary provided counsel that he could trust.

This week in Salem, Lennie's colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family will gather to celebrate and thank Councillor Leonard F. O'Leary for 24 years of unselfish public service. It is a most appropriate and deserving recognition for someone who has given so much of himself to the City of Salem.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final legislation to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007. While this final compromise is not perfect, I will vote for it to provide necessary funds for our troops in the field as well as meet other important priorities.

This bill contains more funding than the President requested for military health care and veterans health care. It expresses the support of the U.S. Congress for a new direction in Iraq by tying economic aid to 18 specific benchmarks on political, security and economic progress, although it provides the President the waiver authority he negotiated before agreeing to sign the bill. This bill also includes the first raise in the minimum wage in a decade as well as critical funding for domestic needs like hurricane recovery efforts.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress from both political parties as well as the President and the Administration to provide a new direction in Iraq and to meet the critical needs of the people of North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

H.R. 198 "RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 198, which recognizes the significance of Black History Month.

Madam Speaker, it is easy to forget the past, especially a past that is so painful for so many. But I think we all recognize that the story of blacks in America is one that is truly uplifting and gives us the spirit to believe that any accomplishment is possible if we strive for it.

I want to take this opportunity today to talk about the black history that is too often ignored. Let me start by saying that we all revere the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. We love the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. I am deeply grateful that this Nation has a day to honor Dr. King and that we have a Black History Month so that our children may understand the struggle that black Americans had to endure just to get to this point.

Madam Speaker, the history of blacks in America did not begin and end with the Civil Rights Movement. We need to remind everyone that the America we know today was built in substantial part by the skill, labor, intelligence, and determination of African Americans. These black pioneers succeeded despite the oppression they openly faced.

That's the history I want to talk about today. I want to talk about black Americans whose accomplishments have sometimes been overlooked. Their greatness in the face of adversity is what makes me so proud to be an African American.

So many oppressed people have had to surrender their souls, their hopes and their dreams because of the hardship they have been forced to face. However, black history is full of men and women who faced their hardships head on and refused to accept what they were told was their destiny. Instead, they instead looked at what they were given and dared to believe that not only could they improve upon it, but that they could strive for achievements almost unimaginable to any American. These great figures of black history are our past; they are our future. They are our compass as we move forward into this new generation.

I am proud to be a member of Congress representing the great State of Texas. In the 211 years of congressional history there have been 105 African American Members of Congress. We tend to think that before the Civil Rights Movement black Americans had no ability to represent themselves in government. Despite the tremendous obstacles of intimidation and harassment that were faced by black Americans who sought and won election to political office.

Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American member of Congress. During the Civil War, he helped organize Maryland's first two black regiments for the U.S. Army. In February 1870, he was elected from Mississippi to the United States Senate seat formerly held by Jefferson Davis. Hiram Rhodes Revels was in an extraordinary position, not only was he the first African American in Congress only a few years after the Civil War had ended, but he was representing a State where black men had only been in positions of servitude.

His seat in the Senate did not come without great controversy; a great debate arose in the Senate as to whether a man of color was entitled to a seat in our Nation's legislative body. However, it was the great Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts who made the closing argument for Revels' admission, declaring: "All men are created equal, says the great Declaration, and now a great act attests to this verity. Today we make the Declaration a reality."

During his time in the Senate, Hiram Revels voted to forgive officials from the secessionist States, who had broken their oaths to uphold the Constitution, as he made great efforts to unite a war-torn Nation. After leaving the Senate, Revels returned to Mississippi, where he became the founding president of Alcorn College. His life was one of tremendous achievement against the backdrop of the turbulent Reconstruction era.

Almost 100 years after Hiram Rhodes Revels was elected to the U.S. Senate, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress, when she was elected to represent New York's Twelfth Congressional District in 1968 running on the slogan, "Fighting Shirley Chisholm—Unbought and Unbossed."

She reflected that spirit well during her 14 years in Congress. During her first term she spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, and the poor and against the Vietnam War. Her first term in Congress was set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement and the women's movement for equal rights.

Shirley Chisholm had an understanding that during those turbulent times the nation required a determined leader to represent the voice of so many Americans who felt dismay at their treatment. She took an extremely active role in changing the way women were to be judged from that point on. She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes."

This is a sentiment that I myself take to heart. Women in this Nation are now told they have a right to determine the kind of life they want to lead; Shirley Chisholm was at the core of this movement.

On January 25, 1972, Chisholm announced her candidacy for President. She stood before the cameras and in the beginning of her speech she said, "I stand before you today as